

Support for Municipal Wind Projects

The Commonwealth offers a variety of resources and support for municipalities seeking to develop



wind energy projects and for those with questions or concerns regarding existing municipal wind projects. Communities with additional needs related to wind projects that are not addressed through any of the programs

mentioned below should contact their [Green Communities Regional Coordinator](#).

Communities seeking to develop wind projects may obtain financial assistance through the [Commonwealth Wind Incentive Program](#), administered by the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC). The program offers four funding opportunities:

1. [Site Assessment Grants of Service](#) support preliminary evaluation of the potential for wind development on one or more sites including a desktop analysis and site visit to investigate siting, wind resource, land use/environmental restrictions, electric grid interconnection options, and site access. Grants are available for community and commercial wind projects. MassCEC defines community wind projects as involving at least one wind turbine with power capacity of at least 100 kilowatts and that typically (1) serve a load that is located on the project site, (2) will have a net-metering agreement with a utility company or (3) will serve the load requirements of a host municipal light department. Commercial wind projects are those that typically include at least three turbines and serve the ISO-New England wholesale electricity market or a municipal light plant system, or that have on-site load that does not qualify for net metering.
2. [Feasibility Study Grants](#) fund in-depth analysis of the technical, environmental, regulatory, and financial aspects of community and commercial wind projects at specific sites. The analysis may include wind resource monitoring, feasibility studies, preconstruction acoustic studies, and business planning. MassCEC may also provide grants of service for stakeholder education and facilitation services.
3. [Development Grants](#) support development activities (such as permitting, environmental impact evaluation, geotechnical studies, public outreach and interconnection studies) and construction activities (such as turbine procurement, erection and commissioning). Community wind projects use these grants for both types of activities, but commercial projects may use development grants for development activities only.
4. [Micro Wind Construction Rebates](#) are available for small wind projects (less than 100 kW).

Communities with existing wind projects can seek support from DOER's [Green Communities Division](#), which collaborates closely with the MassCEC Wind Team and the Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) through the [Clean Energy Results Program](#). The multi-agency team provides assistance in the following areas:

- **Meet with municipal officials** to learn about their experiences and/or participate in public forums to discuss community wind projects, including "Wind 101" tutorials;
- **Identify resources** that can help communities understand wind energy issues and answer questions related to health impacts, acoustics, siting, operational safety, and property values;
- **Review existing studies and permitting** related to the municipality's wind projects;
- **Conduct studies** on flicker and acoustics;
- **Provide facilitation services** for communities seeking to resolve local wind energy disputes; and
- **Help to clarify** financial impacts of various wind turbine operating scenarios.